

Called meeting of the City Council

Austin, Texas, May 7<sup>th</sup> 1903

Hon R. B. White Mayor presiding

Roll Called

Present Aldermen Crocker Haynes Hume Maddox Miller Moore Nitsche Schneider Shumate Smith  
Absent Aldermen Redd Shelley & Witt

The following call of the Council was read

Austin, Texas, May 7<sup>th</sup> 1903

Call of Council

To the members of the City Council of the City of Austin:

Storm Sewers

A special meeting of the City Council of the City of Austin is hereby called to convene in the Council Chamber at the City Hall in said City at 5 o'clock P.M. on Thursday May 7<sup>th</sup> 1903, for the purpose of receiving the report of the Mayor and Streets Committee on the subject of the contract for the construction of storm water sewers on Congress Avenue and for the further purpose of taking such action as to the Council may seem proper on said report and said sewer construction

W. D. Shelley 30 Ward

C. W. Moore 7<sup>th</sup> "

J. W. Shumate 6<sup>th</sup> "

H. L. Haynes 6<sup>th</sup> "

Austin, Texas, May 7<sup>th</sup> 1903.

I hereby certify that the following named Aldermen has been served with a true copy of this Call by having same read to them in person W. D. Shelley J. P. Schneider P. M. Maddox L. M. Crocker Joe Mackin Geo Hume Wm Witt J. C. Nitsche C. W. Moore J. Smith Joe Shumate H. L. Haynes A true copy having been left at the residences of W. D. Miller and W. Redd they being away from home and not being able to locate them

H. Montgomery

City Marshal

Maddox raised point of order on the call overruled

Alderman Maddox raised the point of order that the call was not legal, same not being signed by the Mayor, or by the President of the Council as acting Mayor.

The Mayor decided the point not well taken

Alderman Schneider moved a call of the Council which was seconded.

The Marshal was directed to bring in the absentees

Alderman Mackin moved to suspend the call which motion prevailed.

The following reports from the Mayor and Streets Committee were then read -

Austin, Texas, May 6<sup>th</sup> 1903

Report of Mayor  
& Street Committee  
on Contract with  
Field

To the City Council of the City of Austin:

In accordance with the resolution of your body adopted on the 5th inst we beg to report that we have today handed Mr. Pierce a letter, a copy of which is hereto attached; and that in reply he has handed us a letter a copy of which is also hereto attached. That upon the receipt of said reply from Mr. Pierce, we tendered him back his check and bond in accordance with the terms of said resolution; and that said tender was accepted as to the check but not as to the bond.

Yours very truly,

R. E. White Mayor

J. B. Nisette } Street  
Geo. L. Lane } Com

Austin, Texas, May 6<sup>th</sup> 1910

Copy

Mr. J. H. Field,  
Austin, Texas

Dear Sir:

In the matter of your proposed Contract for the construction of a storm water sewer on Congress Avenue, we beg to call your attention to the following facts, viz:

- 1 The specifications on which the bids for said Contract are based provide for a sewer of cylindrical form, while the proposed draft of your Contract stipulates for a sewer to be constructed in a semi-circular or horse shoe form.

- 2 The specifications above mentioned provide for the concrete to be used in the construction of the sewer shall be composed of one part Portland Cement, two parts sand, and four parts broken limestone, while your bid and the proposed draft of Contract provide for concrete composed of one part Portland Cement, two parts sand and five parts gravel.

Neither of these changes from the original specifications have even been authorized by the Council. If you are willing to change the proposed draft of your Contract and the interlined copy of the specifications on which same is based, so as to conform to the original specifications on which the other competitive bids were predicated in the two particulars above mentioned, we are willing, on behalf of the City, to finally accept the Contract. On the other hand, if you are unwilling to conform to the original specifications in the two particulars above mentioned, we hereby tender you back your check, and decline to make the Contract in the form contained in said draft, for the reason that said draft conflicts with the original specifications in the particulars above mentioned, and is therefore unauthorised.

Very Respectfully yours.

A. S. White

S. B. Foster

Geo. L. Stone

Austin, Tex., May 6<sup>th</sup>, 1903,

To the Honorable A. E. Hulse Mayor

Street Committee

Gentlemen:

Replying to yours of May 6, 1903, handed me this morning I beg to state that I have a contract with the City of Austin duly executed by its proper authorized officers. I stand ready to comply with its terms in all things I therefore, respectfully decline to accede to the terms of your letter as to certain proposed changes in the terms of the Contract therein suggested.

Very Respectfully Yours

J. H. Field

Alderman Crocker moved to adopt the report. Carried. Alderman Haynes offered the following resolution.

Resolution of Haynes to abandon sewer.

Be it resolved by the City Council of the City of Austin, that all plans for storm sewers on the Avenue and the contemplated broadening of the side walks on said streets be and are hereby abandoned as a useless expenditure of public money and, whereas, the Avenue when properly graded and paved will have ample surface drainage to carry off quickly all storm water and that this beautiful street when paved its entire width will present a handsome appearance that if made narrower by the 16 feet extension of the present sidewalks

Therefore, be it further resolved that the amount estimated to be expended on the storm sewer and the broadening of the side walks be applied to the cost of paving the street crossings on the Avenue also the width of the present gutters on said streets on same grade and plan as contemplated by the citizens now undertaking the expense of paving said street, and in order that the work of paving so earnestly desired by the tax payers, workmen and business men of Austin - as indicated by the voluntary undertaking of the expense - shall no longer be delayed by the consideration of the Utopian idea of storm sewers, only necessary for cities not favored as Austin with splendid natural drainage, that the amount of \$15,983.42 Street paving fund now available be now appropriated by ordinance for the use and purposes above indicated and that the City Attorney be requested to draw up said ordinance.

The resolution was read in the following fall

Year Alderman Haynes Chairman Street

May Alderman Crocker Chairman in 1903, 1904, 1905

1906, 1907

City Engineer and Com.  
instructed to get up  
plans specifications  
for sewer.

Alderman Mackin offered the following resolution  
Be it resolved by the City Council of the City of Austin;  
That the City Engineer and Street Committee are hereby  
instructed to prepare plans and specifications for the construction of a  
storm water sewer on Congress Avenue between the State Capital  
and the Colorado River; and to report said plans and  
specifications to the Council for acceptance or rejection at the  
earliest practicable moment.

The resolution was adopted.

City Engineer authorized  
to employ with

Alderman Moore moved that the City Engineer be  
authorized to employ an assistant to assist in drawing the  
plans and specifications for the proposed sewer, which motion  
prevailed.

Moore authorized to  
submit plans.

Alderman Mackin moved that Alderman Crooker  
be authorized to submit to the Committee his plan for the  
proposed sewer, which motion prevailed.

Alderman Mackin moved that the Council adopt  
the horse shoe shaped sewer, which motion was adopted.

On motion the Council adjourned.

Geo. O. Johnson  
City Clerk